

2020 Municipal Budget Survey

Welcome to the **2020 Municipal Budget Survey**. The municipality recognizes that citizens' priorities may have shifted during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our goal with this survey is to understand where residents would like to see investments in municipal programs and services. Your responses will help guide the Halifax Regional Municipality with its immediate and long-term business and budget planning.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to participate in this survey. The results from this survey will be available on the municipality's website at www.halifax.ca/citizensurvey.

The survey should take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

The deadline for completing this survey is **Monday December 14th**

Responses will be kept strictly confidential and the results of the survey will not be used in any way that will allow anyone to identify you or your responses. Your participation is voluntary, and you can discontinue your participation at any time.

Q1. What area of HRM do you live in?

- District 1 - Waverley – Fall River - Musquodoboit Valley
- District 2 - Preston – Chezzetcook - Eastern Shore
- District 3 – Dartmouth South – Eastern Passage
- District 4 - Cole Harbour - Westphal
- District 5 - Dartmouth Centre
- District 6 – Harbourview – Burnside – Dartmouth East
- District 7 - Halifax South Downtown
- District 8 - Halifax Peninsula North
- District 9 - Halifax West - Armdale
- District 10 – Bedford Basin West
- District 11 – Spryfield – Sambro Loop – Prospect Road
- District 12 – Timberlea – Beechville – Clayton Park - Wedgwood
- District 13 – Hammond's Plains – St. Margarets
- District 14 - Middle / Upper Sackville – Beaver Bank - Lucasville
- District 15 - Lower Sackville
- District 16 – Bedford - Wentworth
- Don't know
- NOT a resident of HRM

If you don't know which District you reside in, you can find out by visiting the Municipality's website at: <https://www.halifax.ca/city-hall/districts-councillors/district-look> and inputting your address. This information will remain anonymous and will be used for analytical purposes only.

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- Q2. The municipality provides a wide range of services, including police and fire protection, garbage collection and disposal, recreation facilities and programming, transit, road and street maintenance, etc.

Thinking about all the programs and services you receive from the municipality, please indicate the degree to which you believe you receive good or poor value for the level of property taxes that you currently pay?

Please check only one

- Very good value
- Good value
- Poor value
- Very poor value
- No opinion / Don't know
- Do Not Pay Property Tax (example: rent, live with parents)

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- Q3. When the municipality is creating the municipal budget, please indicate which of the statements comes closest to your point of view. The municipality should:

Please check only one

- Decrease taxes and fees, even if municipal services must decrease
- Maintain taxes and fees, even if it means reducing some services to maintain others
- Increase municipal services, even if taxes or fees must increase

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- Q4. Based on the current economic situation do you think it's more important that the municipality reduce taxes for citizens and business (through service reductions) or focus on maintaining and increasing services (through higher spending and taxes) to support the economy?

Please check only one

- Reduce taxes for citizens and businesses (through service reductions)
 - Maintain and/or increase services (through higher spending and taxes)
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Overall city maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Parking enforcement	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Police services	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Public engagement (example: consultation on projects like Cogswell District, citizen surveys, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Public transit – Conventional bus & ferry (example: reliability)	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Public transit - Access-A-Bus (example: reliability)	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Overall transit service	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Indoor recreation facilities (example: community centres, pools)	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Outdoor recreation facilities (example: sports fields)	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Recreation programming (example: swimming, camps)	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Sidewalk maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Street / road maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Traffic management (example: signals)	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Traffic / Pedestrian safety	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Winter maintenance (example: snow and ice control)	<input type="checkbox"/>					

Q6. Overall, how satisfied are you with the delivery of all the services provided by the municipality?

- Very satisfied
 - Satisfied
 - Dissatisfied
 - Very dissatisfied
 - Don't know/No opinion
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Q7. Below are six strategic Themes. Please rate them in terms of their importance to you. Included are some examples of the focus for each Theme.

Theme	Very Important	Important	Not Important	Not at all Important
Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing emissions from municipal operations and partnering to reduce community-wide emissions • Preparing communities, infrastructure, and natural systems to withstand and recover quickly from climate impacts • Protecting and sustaining our environment and natural systems 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Governance and Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making good decisions about how to run the municipality • Planning and managing finances and spending on services and programs • Communicating about city affairs • Engaging with the public on local and regional issues and projects 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economy and Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing red tape / making it easier to do business with the municipality • Keeping and attracting businesses and talent • Planning to make Halifax and housing more affordable and inclusive • Supporting the rural economy 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring the public's safety • Providing recreation, leisure, social, and learning programming and facilities • Removing systemic barriers and building social equity • Supporting community well-being and supporting vulnerable and marginalized populations 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Integrated Mobility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An integrated mobility network that connects communities and supports all modes of transportation including walking, rolling, cycling, taking transit, and driving • Safe, well-maintained, complete streets that are barrier-free 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Service Excellence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements focused on making service to people and businesses better. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

A NOTE ON MUNICIPAL BUDGETING

The cost of delivering municipal services is rising, and even the cost of *maintaining* some service levels is increasing. Maintaining or increasing some service levels without additional revenues may require reducing other services.

Q8. For each of the following **Governance & Engagement services**, please indicate whether you believe the municipality should increase the level of service, maintain the level of service, or reduce the level of service.

Please check the box that corresponds with your response

Governance & Engagement	Increase service levels	Maintain service levels	Reduce service levels
Public engagement (example: consultation on projects like Cogswell District, citizen surveys, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Overall city maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q9. For each of the following **Economy and Planning services**, please indicate whether you believe the municipality should increase the level of service, maintain the level of service, or reduce the level of service.

Please check the box that corresponds with your response

Economy and Planning	Increase service levels	Maintain service levels	Reduce service levels
Business support services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community planning / Development Approvals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economic development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q10. For each of the following **Environmental services**, please indicate whether you believe the municipality should increase the level of service, maintain the level of service, or reduce the level of service.

Environmental Services	Increase service levels	Maintain service levels	Reduce service levels
Environmental protection and sustainability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Garbage, recycling, and organics collection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q11. For each of the following **Integrated Mobility services**, please indicate whether you believe the municipality should increase the level of service, maintain the level of service, or reduce the level of service.

Please check the box that corresponds with your response

Integrated Mobility Services	Increase service levels	Maintain service levels	Reduce service levels
Bike lanes / Cycling facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parking enforcement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public transit – conventional bus / ferry	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public transit - Access-A-Bus	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Overall transit service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sidewalk maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Street / Road maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Traffic management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Traffic / Pedestrian safety	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Winter maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q12. For each of the following **Communities services**, please indicate whether you believe the municipality should increase the level of service, maintain the level of service, or reduce the level of service.

Communities Services	Increase service levels	Maintain service levels	Reduce service levels
Accessibility programming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Affordability / Free programming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arts and cultural facilities and programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cleanliness (litter and graffiti removal)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community beautification	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Diversity and inclusiveness programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Emergency preparedness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Halifax Public Libraries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parks, playgrounds, and green spaces	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Police services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indoor Recreation facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor Recreation facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreation programming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q13. Given the challenges of the current economic environment posed by the COVID-19 pandemic would you be willing to support a tax increase in support of any of these strategic themes?

Theme	Yes	No	Don't Know / No Opinion
Environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Governance and Engagement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economy and Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Integrated Mobility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Service Excellence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q14. Are there any additional things you can think of that have not been addressed in the survey that you think the municipality should consider when attempting to balance the expectations of residents with the need to deliver critical programs and services?

ABOUT YOU

Our last questions are about you and your household. As a reminder, your responses to this survey are anonymous, and the results of the survey will be reported in aggregate only. The municipality is collecting this data to better understand the overall priorities and expectations of residents, and to determine where there are differences and how we can best service our diverse communities.

D1. What gender identity do you most associate with?

- Man
 - Woman
 - Non-binary
 - Prefer not to say
-

D2. How old are you?

- 18 – 34 years old
 - 35 – 54 years old
 - 55 and older
 - Prefer not to say
-

D3. What was your 2019 total household income, before taxes?

Your best estimate is fine.

- Less than \$30,000
 - \$30,000 to less than \$50,000
 - \$50,000 to less than \$75,000
 - \$75,000 to less than \$100,000
 - \$100,000 to less than \$125,000
 - \$125,000 to less than \$150,000
 - Over \$150,000
 - Prefer not to say
-

D4. What is your current employment status?

- Employed full time
 - Employed part time
 - Unemployed and currently looking for work
 - Unemployed and not currently looking for work
 - Student
 - Retired
 - Homemaker
 - Self-employed
 - Unable to work
 - Prefer not to say
-

D5. How much was your most recent annual property tax bill?

- Less than \$1,000
 - Between \$1,000 and \$2,000
 - Between \$2,000 and \$3,000
 - Between \$3,000 and \$4,000
 - Between \$4,000 and \$5,000
 - Over \$5,000
 - Don't Know / Don't pay property tax
 - Prefer not to say
-

D6. Do you identify as a person with disabilities?

- Yes
 - No
 - Prefer not to say
-

D7. Do you identify as Acadian or Francophone?

- Yes - Acadian
 - Yes – Francophone
 - No
 - Prefer not to say
-

D8. The Halifax Regional Municipality has identified valuing diversity and inclusion as a corporate priority. To support this, we are asking you to please self-identify based on the ethnicity categories of the Canadian Census.

What is your ethnic identity?

Check all that apply

- Caucasian (White)
- South Asian (e.g. East Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, etc.)
- Chinese
- Black (African Nova Scotian)
- Black (African Canadian)
- Filipino
- Latin American
- Arab
- Southeast Asian (e.g. Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian, Thai, etc.)
- West Asian (e.g. Iranian, Afghan, etc.)
- Korean
- Japanese
- First Nations (includes Status and Non-Status)
- Métis
- Inuk (Inuit)
- Other
- Prefer not to say